

Message Text

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SUBJ: PRESS COVERAGE OF BASE TALKS

1. ORIENT NEWS OF APRIL 8 CARRIES FRONT PAGE PIECE ON ROMULO'S DEPARTURE FOR BASE TALKS IN WASHINGTON. FOLLOWING FIVE PARAGRAPHS CONTAINED ESSENTIAL FLAVOR OF THE STORY: QUOTE: FOREIGN AFFAIRS SECRETARY CARLOS P. ROMULO LEAVES TODAY FOR THE UNITED STATES TO PRESS EXPECTED PHILIPPINE DEMANDS FOR MORE EQUITY AND JUSTICE IN THE ADMINISTRATION OF AMERICAN BASES IN THE COUNTRY.

"GOVERNMENT AND DIPLOMATIC SOURCES, ACCORDING TO THE UNITED PRESS INTERNATIONAL, SAY THAT NEGOTIATIONS ARE EXPECTED TO CENTER ON WHETHER THE PHILIPPINES WILL DEMAND ANNUAL RENTAL IN DOLLARS FOR THE USE OF THE BASES, AND JURISDICTION OVER AMERICAN EMPLOYEES.

" THE SOURCES SAY THAT TWO QUESTIONS ARE CLOSELY LINKED TO NEGOTIATIONS OVER AMERICAN BASES IN THAILAND.

"THE PHILIPPINES IS ALSO CLAIMING UNUSED BASE TERRITORY FOR COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT AS SHIPYARDS AND TOURIST RESORTS, THE SAME SOURCES SAID.

"THE BASES -- CLARK AIR FORCE BASE, THE HOME OF THE 13TH AIR FORCE; SUBIC BAY, A REPAIR STATION OF THE U.S.

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SEVENTH FLEET, AND OTHER SMALLER INSTALLATIONS -- HAVE

BECOME THE MAINSTAY OF U.S. FORCES IN THE PACIFIC. END QUOTE.

2. ARTICLE GOES ON TO NOTE THAT ECONOMIC AND TRADE TALKS BEGAN MARCH 29 IN WASHINGTON "IN PURSUANCE OF THE AGREEMENT CONCLUDED BETWEEN PRESIDENT MARCOS AND FORD DURING THE LATTER'S VISIT IN MANILA RECENTLY." FLAVOR OF PRESIDENT FORD'S DECEMBER 1975 VISIT IS CONVEYED IN QUOTED PASSAGES FROM PUBLIC STATEMENTS ISSUED BY MARCOS AT THAT TIME. ARTICLE CONCLUDES IN FAMILIAR TERMS; "PRESIDENT MARCOS WANTED A TREATY REVISION TO TURN AMERICAN MILITARY INSTALLATIONS INTO PHILIPPINE BASES SUBJECT TO CONTINUED BUT LIMITED USE BY U.S. FORCES."

3. TIMES JOURNAL AND BUSINESS DAY CARRY SHORT ANNOUNCEMENTS ON THE TRAVEL OF ROMULO AND ENRILE TO WASHINGTON BUT OFFER NO SUBSTANTIVE COMMENT.
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